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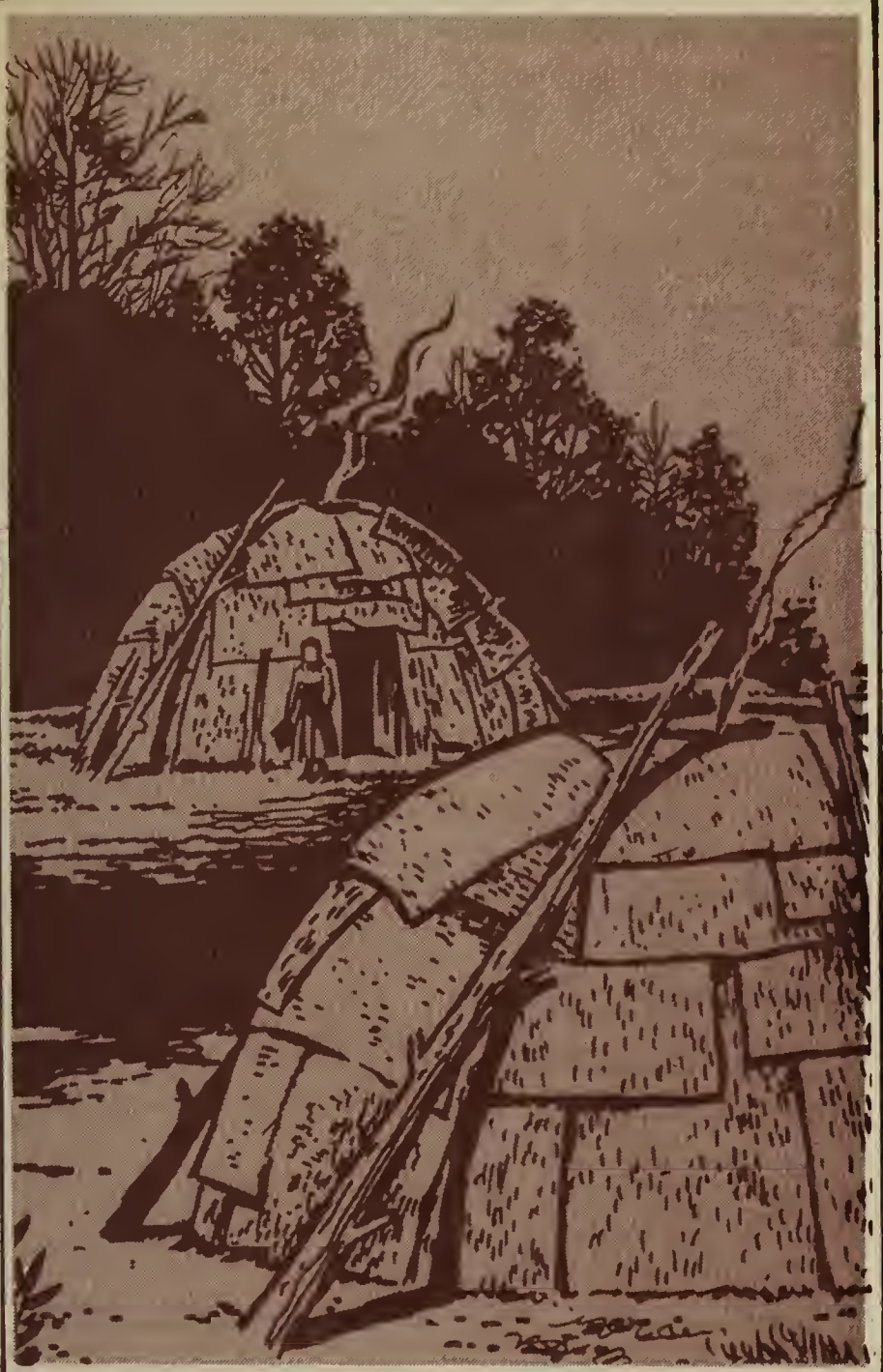
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Prophetstown

STATE RECREATION AREA



CONSERVATION

THE PARK

Prophetstown State Recreation Area, on the northeast edge of the city along the south bank of the Rock River in Whiteside County, is a scenic and historic area offering a variety of recreational facilities. Once the site of an Indian village, the 53 acre park derives its name from the Indian prophet Wa-bo-kie-shiek.

Authorized by the Illinois General Assembly in 1947, the bill to make Prophetstown a state park was sponsored by State Representative George S. Brydia, who had served ten terms as mayor of Prophetstown. After preliminary park development was completed, the Prophetstown Park Boosters made elaborate plans for a day-long dedication celebration throughout the city.

Governor William G. Stratton dedicated the park in formal ceremonies there on September 18, 1953. Included in the activities were parades, boat races, fishing contests and an evening fireworks display.





HISTORY

The Indian prophet Wa-bo-kie-shiek (White Cloud), who was of mixed Winnebago and Sauk Descent, served as an advisor to the great Sauk war chief Black Hawk. In 1831, the advancement of white settlement forced Black Hawk and his followers from the Rock Island area into Iowa, with the promise that they would not return.

Under treaty, the land at Rock Island still belonged to the Indians until sold by the United States. The frontiersmen, however, were impatient and began to occupy the site of Black Hawk's village. In 1832, Black Hawk denounced the encroachment of the frontiersmen upon the lands of his people and set out from Iowa to retake the ceded land.

For a time in 1832, northwestern Illinois was the scene of many skirmishes between the Indians, the Illinois militia and the regular army. Prophetstown, the site of Wa-bo-kie-shiek's village, was destroyed on May 10, 1832, by troops of the state militia, commanded by General Samuel Whiteside.

Black Hawk was finally chased into southern Wisconsin, culminating in a decisive defeat of the Indians a few miles south of Bad Axe on August 2, 1832. A few days later Black Hawk was captured and, after several months captivity during which time he was taken to Washington, D.C., he was permitted to return to his people in Iowa, where he died in 1838.

NATURAL FEATURES

Prophetstown State Recreation Area is a predominantly wooded area located along the south bank of the Rock River. Its terrain is relatively flat and lies within the flood plain of the river. Plant life is characteristic of bottom ground, offering a variety of species. Some of the predominant trees are maple, cottonwood, oak, walnut and locust. Animal species that are often seen are squirrels, rabbits, ducks, muskrats, raccoons and occasionally deer. Coon Creek flows through the park and feeds into the Rock River, creating a natural area for fish.

FACILITIES

Picnicking — Picnic tables and stoves are provided. No cooking may be done except on camp or park stoves. The area offers a picnic shelter and playground equipment. Drinking water and privy toilets are also located on the area.

Fishing — The fisherman will find largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, bullhead, carp, sauger and walleye in the Rock River. If he prefers, he can throw a line in Coon Creek. A concrete boat ramp is available for easy boat launching.

Camping — An open, well shaded area is available for both tent and trailer camping. There are electrical outlets and a dump station available for trailers. Water hydrants and privy toilets are located throughout the area.

Horseshoe Court — Visitors who enjoy competition in horseshoe pitching will enjoy the nine courts available in the picnic area.

Hiking Trail — Wa-bo-kie-shiek nature trail follows along the edge of Coon Creek for approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile. It provides access for fishermen while also providing a scenic walk for the hiker.

Swimming — There is no swimming in the park, but about four blocks away, many park visitors enjoy swimming in the Prophetstown Park District indoor pool.

Hunting — Upland hunting is available at the Big Bend C.A. located just four miles from Prophetstown. Contact the site for more information 815/537-2270.



7333
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170



River Side Street

Park Street

To Lyndon

To Rt. 88



Park Maps



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state area unless permission from the area superintendent has been secured to use the facility. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state areas are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines and Giant City. Reserva-

tions for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state areas are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more information, contact Park Superintendent, Prophetstown State Recreation Area, Box 181, Prophetstown, Illinois 61277, (815) 537-2926. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Illinois 62706.